

PROFESSOR DR. HERMANN A. EIDMANN,
AN OBITUARY NOTICE

Death came to Professor Eidmann on September 4, 1949, after an illness of several months. The fifty-two year old Professor of Zoology and Director of the Zoologischen Instituts der Forstlichen Hochschule Hamm.-Münden was without doubt one of the foremost myrmecologists of our times. His researches in ants, which covered a period of twenty-five years, dealt primarily with ecology. Over fifty papers on ants, many of them very extensive, testify to his great energy and perseverance. During the last ten years a number of papers were produced under circumstances which would have stopped many a producer with less fortitude. Professor Eidmann not only produced in quantity, but his scholarship was of the highest quality.

In addition to his many works on ants, Professor Eidmann wrote numerous papers in other fields of Zoology. The ecology of the forest animals of the temperate, subtropical and tropical areas of the world took much of his time; so much, in fact, that at times his ant studies had to be put to one side. In a letter dated January 26, 1948, he wrote me that the field work connected with his investigations for the Imperial Bureau of Biological Control in behalf of the Canadian Government was taking most of his time, but "myrmecology has all my love and interest." One must not assume from this confession that his other work ever suffered, for he maintained the very highest of standards in all of his work.

During the months just preceding his final illness he was at work on the second edition of his *Lehrbuch der Entomologie*, which was originally published in Berlin in 1941. It was hoped that the new edition would be done by 1949. In addition to this revision, he was well along the way to completing his *Lehrbuch der Myrmekologie*. This latter work was to cover the whole field of myrmecology, including a section on history and biographies. Since Wheeler's famous classic, *Ants, Their Structure, Development and Behavior*, 1910, is the last truly comprehensive work on ants, it is evident how much myrmecologists

need a work like the one planned by Professor Eidmann. At the time of this writing I am not informed as to the plans regarding these two books, but it is certainly to be hoped that one or more of Professor Eidmann's close colleagues will be able to carry at least the ant book through to completion.

I will always regret that I never had the opportunity to meet Professor Eidmann and know him personally. Our friendship grew up through our correspondence, which, with the exception of two or three letters written in 1939, existed from 1946 to just before his passing. His command of his own native German was superb, comparable, in fact, to that of a student of the language. This ability to use language well is unfortunately not universal among German scientists. His command of the English language was unusually good.

Professor Eidmann is survived by his wife, Hilda Bach Eidmann, two daughters, Elisabeth and Susi, and a host of friends throughout the world. The date September 4, 1949, marks the passing of a kind and generous man and a great scholar.—
MERLE W. WING.